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INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY
USSR

SUBJECT
St Waniowice Airfield

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1. The St Waniowice Airfield was located approximately six to seven kilometers southwest of Sambor (Sambir). It was between St Waniowice and Szczakowice and situated south of the loose-surfaced, all-weather road which ran from Sambor southwest to St Sambor and north of the Dniester River which runs southwest to northeast.
2. Until 1941 this area was just a farm land and the terrain was flat. In the beginning of winter the Soviets began constructing the St Waniowice Airfield. The subbase of the field consisted of black dirt. In approximately three months the Soviets constructed one sod-covered runway which ran northeast and southwest and was parallel to the all-weather road which ran from Sambor to St Sambor.
3. The Soviets conscripted villagers and farmers to work on this field. All the laborers were under close watch. In addition to the one runway, one small building was constructed of wood and was used for storing tools. The building was under constant guard.
4. The field did not have any fences or barbed wire around it. Gasoline for the planes which were to land on this field was to be shipped in from Boryslaw and Drogobycz (Drogobych), both located approximately 30 kilometers southeast of Sambor. A number of oil wells and refineries were located in and around both cities.
5. The Soviets were going to use the St Waniowice Airfield for an emergency base, jumping-off spot, to bring in military personnel, high officials including mail for the Soviet troops stationed in this area.
6. The Soviets also dug deep pits which were to be used for underground storage tanks. However, the Soviets did not have time to complete the construction of the airfield because the Germans invaded in 1941. The Soviets, in their hasty retreat, did not have time to destroy the airfield.
7. During the German occupation a number of planes made emergency landings on this field for repairs and refueling. The Germans did not expand this field nor did they construct any buildings except to build a few small crude hangars. They had a small guard unit which patrolled and protected

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the field.

The stones and gravel to repair and fill up some of the holes on the field during the rains were scooped out of the Dniestr River. There were also small forests which were located approximately eight to 10 kilometers southwest and west of the airfield but they were not close enough to hamper any take-offs or landings, or to be used for camouflages. Trees were mostly coniferous - fir, spruce, pine, larch with a mixture of oak, beech, and birch.

During the Soviets' advance westward, the Germans in their retreat plowed the field under. They made deep ruts and holes in addition to strewing the field with wrecked equipment, boulders, and tree stumps.

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